

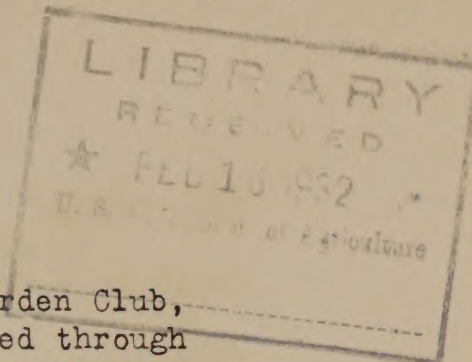
## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



1.9  
P C R a

MEETING - PROGRESSIVE GARDEN CLUB



A radio discussion by members of the Progressive Garden Club, W. R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant Industry, presiding, delivered through WRC and 45 other radio stations, associated with the National Broadcasting Company, Tuesday, January 26, 1932.

- - - - -

ANNOUNCER:

We are nearing the end of January, and, for many of us, it will soon be time for the planting of gardens. Today, the members of the Progressive Garden Club are holding their first meeting of the new year, and are making their garden plans, and consulting the new seed catalogs. Let's tune in and hear what they are planning to grow in their gardens this year.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHAIRMAN:

Let's see----- I believe we were all to bring our new seed catalogs to the meeting today. Did you bring them?

ALL: I did. I have mine. Here's mine. I have three or four.

FARMER BROWN:

Now look at that will you ---- isn't that a fine tomato picture?

AUNT POLLY:

Yes, that's fine, but my sister out in Iowa grow some Break o'Day tomatoes last year that beat those.

FARMER BROWN:

Well, maybe she did. I had some pretty good ones in my garden last year but I want to do better this year.

MRS. BROWN:

John! You talk like you thought it was spring and you were planting your garden. This is only January.

FARMER BROWN:

I know it Mary, but if we don't begin to plan our garden and order seeds, how can we make an early start?

CHAIRMAN:

That's right. We need to make our plans now. Why, many of the members of the Progressive Garden Club who live in the South are already planting early potatoes and peas. It will not be long now until those further north will be starting plants in the house or hotbed.

(over)



MRS. BROWN:

We always try to get our garden started early and then keep it going until late in the fall.

CHAIRMAN:

All right now, let's get down to business. Have your paper and pencils ready, and, as we go through the catalogs, jot down the kinds and quantities of the seeds you want to order.

FARMER BROWN:

Suppose we take the vegetables first, --- you know we want to have plenty to eat this year.

CHAIRMAN:

Yes, I think we had better go over the vegetable lists first. Let's take them by groups. -- Greens would naturally be the first group.--- Mustard, kale, spinach, cabbage, broccoli, turnip greens and the like.

FARMER BROWN:

Turnip greens---- that's what I like especially in the early spring, when the turnips left in the ground over winter, throw up young, tender shoots and leaves. I'm just oldfashioned enough to want my cornbread and turnip greens like we used to have at my old home down in Tennessee.

AUNT POLLY:

Broccoli greens are my choice, but I do like good, tender kale when it is well cooked.

CHAIRMAN:

Broccoli does make fine greens,---I mean the genuine Italian sprouting broccoli or Calabrese. I am jotting down a packet of Glory of Calabria broccoli on my list.

FARMER BROWN:

Wait a minute, ---what was that big name you just mentioned?

CHAIRMAN:

Glory of Calabria broccoli or Calabrese. Some of the seedsmen just call it Italian sprouting broccoli.

MRS. BROWN:

Let's see, --- I want a packet of broccoli,--- half a pound of Bloomsdale savoy spinach, ---- without turnip greens I think that will give us all the greens we'll need.

BETTY BROWN:

Mother! Don't plant any spinach - - - I hate the stuff.

MRS. BROWN:

Now see here Betty, you know that you need a certain amount of green food in your diet, but I suppose cabbage or broccoli might be all right.



CHAIRMAN:

Yes, cabbage, especially early cabbage is really one of our best greens. Brussels sprouts are also mighty fine.

FARMER BROWN:

Let's see now, I want a packet of Early Jersey Wakefield, and a packet of Copenhagen Market cabbage for my early planting. I sow the seed in my hotbed so as to have early plants.

CHAIRMAN:

Succession is a good second-early cabbage, and I like Danish Ball Head for late or storage cabbage.

MRS. BROWN:

I'd like a few heads of red cabbage for slaw and for pickling.

CHAIRMAN:

Mammoth Red Rock is a good variety for that purpose. And, you folks who live in the South, don't fail to plant plenty of Collards for next fall and winter. Now if that is all on the greens we will go on to our next group, the salad plants ---- lettuce, celery, endive, cress. Lettuce is perhaps the most important of these for the home garden.

AUNT POLLY:

I wish somebody'd tell us how to grow good head lettuce.

FARMER BROWN:

Well, I've found that it is largely a matter of getting your plants started early, and maturing the heads before hot weather.

CHAIRMAN:

Yes, I've grown some very fine head lettuce in my garden near Washington by starting the plants in a hotbed and a coldframe, then setting them on rich ground in the garden just as early as the soil can be worked. I sometimes have to cover the plants after I set them out to protect them on cold nights.

MRS. BROWN:

How long does it take lettuce to make heads after planting out.

CHAIRMAN:

Usually about six to eight weeks, but it depends a good deal on the weather. Lettuce grows slowly in cloudy weather but if the days are bright and the nights rather cool, the plants start to head in about six weeks and last until about the tenth week after planting.

AUNT POLLY:

What varieties of head lettuce do you recommend?

CHAIRMAN:

For the Iceberg type I usually plant one of the strains of the variety known as New York. For the Big Boston type I plant White Big Boston.

(over)



MRS. BROWN:

Does it pay to grow celery in the home garden?

CHAIRMAN:

That depends upon where you are located, and the kind of soil you have, but celery is one of the most exacting and difficult of all our garden crops to grow. The control of celery diseases is quite a problem. Some of the newer varieties like Golden Plume and Easy Bleaching are somewhat resistant to blight and other leaf diseases, but they all have to be sprayed.

FARMER BROWN:

I've been fairly successful with celery in my garden years when the weather was rather cool, and we had plenty of moisture.

CHAIRMAN:

I think that is just about the experience of most people with celery in home gardens. I usually plant about two hundred plants in my garden for late celery.

MRS. BROWN:

I like a little water cress sprinkled through my salad. Will water cress grow on a small pool or pond?

CHAIRMAN:

Yes, Mrs. Brown, if the water is kept fresh. Water cress will do best if planted along the edge of a little stream, only the water must have plenty of lime in it. You can grow water cress in a coldframe or on a bed of well limed soil if you water it often. It can be started from either seed or cuttings. Now, our next group is the root crops - - - radishes, beets, parsnips, salsify, and turnips.

BETTY BROWN:

Carrots, I suppose. Don't plant any carrots for me.

FARMER BROWN:

Why, Betty, carrots give you a good complexion.

BETTY BROWN:

Oh well, I'll eat them, but I don't like carrots so much.

FARMER BROWN:

What is considered the best variety of carrot for the home garden? My catalog mentions Red-Cored Chantenay as a leader.

CHAIRMAN:

Chantenay is good, so is Early Rubicon and Danvers Half Long.

AUNT POLLY:

What about radishes and beets?

CHAIRMAN:

That's right -- you want a few early radishes, a half-ounce packet of seed will be plenty. Better get about an ounce of beet seed so as to make two or three plantings. Detroit Dark Red and Crosby Egyptian are good varieties of table beets.



MRS. BROWN:

I want plenty of peas, and I prefer the sweet, wrinkled sorts like Little Marvel, Gradus and Thomas Laxton. We sometimes plant a row or two of Telephone peas. We usually make two or three plantings of some of the varieties.

FARMER BROWN:

Give me plenty of snap beans, but I want the stringless kinds. I usually make about three or four plantings during the season, including Giant Stringless Green-Pod, Early Bountiful, and Pencil-Pod Wax. Then I usually plant 40 or 50 hills of Kentucky Wonder pole bean, because it is such a sure cropper. I like good snap beans.

BETTY BROWN:

String beans on Sunday, string beans on Monday, string beans on Tuesday - - - beans, beans and more beans. How tired I get of string beans.

MRS. BROWN:

Betty! What in the world is the matter with you today? You object to every vegetable we mention.

BETTY BROWN:

Mother, I am tired of beans and carrots and spinach. I don't object to fresh peas, and you know I am very fond of Lima beans.

CHAIRMAN:

Well Betty, if you don't get enough peas and Lima beans, come over to our house this summer for we are going to plant plenty of peas, and, as for Lima beans, we begin with the little Sieva bush Lima early in the season, then later, we have the large bush Limas and the big pole Limas, because we are far enough north here at Washington to grow the larger varieties. The little Henderson Bush or Sieva beans are mighty good though.

BETTY BROWN:

Did you say Fordhook Bush Lima beans right from the garden? Oh - - - I'll be seeing you.

CHAIRMAN:

How about sweet corn in your gardens?

AUNT POLLY:

I want plenty of sweet corn - - - I'm putting a pint of Golden Bantam at the head of my seed list.

FARMER BROWN:

Now, you said something. We make two or three plantings of Golden Bantam, then follow with Country Gentlemen and Stowell's Evergreen. We often have sweet corn right up until frost.

CHAIRMAN:

We must not forget about onions, and I want to call your attention to the Valencia or Sweet Spanish onion - - - that large, mild-flavored, yellow onion like our Prizetaker variety. A packet of seed planted in the hotbed will produce enough plants to grow five or 6 bushels of mature onions.

MRS. BROWN:

We are fond of summer squashes. I think the summer crookneck is the best, but some people prefer the Scallop or Patty pan.



FARMER BROWN:

I always grow a patch of Hubbard and Boston Marrow squashes, and store them in a warm, dry place for winter. Then, I plant pumpkins in my corn-field when I lay the corn by.

AUNT POLLY:

These muskmelons in my catalog look good to me.

CHAIRMAN:

Yes, and muskmelons are good, but they are really quite difficult to grow, and unless you spray them often and keep the vines green, your melons will have a poor flavor. There are two or three rather new varieties such as Hearts of Gold and Hales Best. Tip Top is one of the old standard, yellow-fleshed varieties. Honey Ball is a green-fleshed variety grown quite extensively in the southwest.

FARMER BROWN:

I usually have a patch of watermelons just for home use. Stone Mountain - sometimes called Dixie Bell - is a good one, but Kleckley Sweet is one of the best flavored. The old Tom Watson variety though is about the surest cropper.

BETTY BROWN:

Te, He! The boys got into daddy's watermelon patch last summer and stole some of his melons.

FARMER BROWN:

Yes, they did, but I think they did it as a joke, and I have a suspicion that Betty knows who did it. Well, anyway, they didn't get any of my best melons.

CHAIRMAN:

Now then, how about tomatoes? Mr. Brown, you mentioned a new tomato.

FARMER BROWN:

Yes, it's the Pritchard tomato, so named in honor of Frederick J. Pritchard, who originated it, and sent it out for trial under the name "Scarlet Topper." Mr. Pritchard also originated the Marglobe and Break O'Day.

CHAIRMAN:

Tomatoes are one of the most important of our garden crops. I always start fifty to one hundred plants in the hotbed.

MRS. BROWN:

And, so do we, then we make another sowing for our main crop for use during the latter part of the summer and for canning.

CHAIRMAN:

Do any of you grow okra or "gumbo" in your gardens?

FARMER BROWN:

Yes we do, and, while okra is a southern crop, it can be grown in the intermediate sections. We can the young, tender okra pods with tomatoes for use in soups. I'm adding an ounce of Perkins Mammoth okra seed to my list.



CHAIRMAN:

Well folks, our time is about up, and there are several important vegetables that we haven't even mentioned. They're all described in Farmers' Bulletin No. 1673 on the Farm Garden. For the very small garden, get Farmers' Bulletin No. 1044, the City Home Garden.

FARMER BROWN:

Pardon me, but before we close our meeting today, I'd like to offer this resolution:

Whereas,- the home garden is such an important factor in the production of the food supply of the rural family,

Therefore,- be it resolved, that we the members of the Progressive Garden Club pay especial attention to the planting and cultivation of our gardens in 1932, to the end that we may grow a bountiful supply of fresh vegetables for use during the summer, also a surplus to be canned, dried, stored, and otherwise preserved for use next winter. - - - Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of this resolution.

CHAIRMAN:

You have heard Mr. Brown's resolution and the motion for its adoption. Do I hear a second to the motion?

AUNT POLLY:

I second the motion.

CHAIRMAN:

Are there any remarks on the resolution? If not, all those in favor of its adoption say "aye."

ALL:

Aye!

CHAIRMAN:

Those opposed, "no." - - - The ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. The meeting will now stand adjourned until the final Tuesday in February.

- - - - -

ANNOUNCER:

That brings to a close the meeting of the Progressive Garden Club for today. The Farmers' Bulletins mentioned were No. 1673, The Farm Garden, and No. 1044, The City Home Garden. You can secure copies of these bulletins by writing to the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D. C.

Those taking part in our program today were Mr. W. R. Beattie, as Chairman, Mr. Frank L. Teuton, as Farmer Brown, Miss Norma L. Hughes, as Mrs. Brown, Miss Patricia Beattie, as Betty Brown, and Miss Rose Glaspey, as Aunt Polly. The next meeting of the club will be on the air on the final Tuesday in February.



